

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4048

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ELAB IS

SUBJ: HISTADRUT MEETS ALLON ON ILP CONCESSIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 8174

1. MEMBERS OF HISTADRUT CENTRAL COMMITTEE, NAVA ARAT AND GIDEON BEN ISRAEL, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HISTADRUT DELEGATION MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON ON DEC 4 TO DISCUSS THE LABOR PARTY'S PROPOSED CONCESSIONS TO THE INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY (ILP) TO KEEP IT IN GOVERNMENT COALITION. HISTADRUT HAD BEEN DISTURBED ABOUT THESE CONCESSIONS AS THEY REGARDED DETACHING (IN HOUSE) KOPAT HOLIM HEALTH INSURANCE FROM HISTADRUT MEMBERSHIP AND INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY ARBITRATION IN CIVIL SERVICE.

2. ALLON HAD ASSURED THE HISTADRUT THAT NO FIRM CONCESSION HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT THE ONLY THING HE HAD PROMISED WAS TO ASK THE LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION REGARDING THE ILP DEMANDS. ALLON HAD FURTHER COMPLAINED THAT NEWS STORIES OF "THE CONCESSIONS" HAD BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED AND THAT "SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO FIGHT THIS MATTER THROUGH THE PRESS". SINCE THE MATTER HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN ADVANCE WITH HISTADRUT OR LABOR PARTY LEADERS, HE PROFESSED TO BE SURPRISED THAT ANYONE COULD ASSUME THAT HE HAD MADE FIRM COMMITMENTS.

3. COMMENT: ALLON HAS BEEN CHOSEN, ON BEHALF OF THE LABOR PARTY, TO TRY TO CALM GROWING HISTADRUT RESENTMENT THAT IT IS NOT BEING SUFFICIENTLY CONSULTED ON GOVERNMENTAL POLICY
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DECISIONS CONSIDERED TO AFFECT IT AND THAT THE LABOR PARTY

CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS NOT BEEN APPROPRIATELY USED FOR WORKING OUT
POLICY DECISIONS IN ADVANCE. EVEN AFTER ALLON'S REASSURANCES,
HISTADRUT APPARENTLY REMAINS SUSPICIOUS AND IS LIKELY TO LAUNCH
A LOBBYING CAMPAIGN AGAINST SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS TO THE ILP
PRIOR TO THE LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION OF THE
SUBJECT. FOR ITS PART, THE ILP MAY NOT HAVE AS MUCH MANEUVERABILITY
AS HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY ASSUMED, SINCE YIGAL YADIN HAS REPORTEDLY
REACTED COOLLY TO ILP OVERTURES TO ALIGN WITH HIS RECENTLY
ANNOUNCED DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (REFTEL).
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